

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH OF BIDEFORD

VITAL STATISTICS,

SANITARY WORKS, &c.,

FOR THE YEAR

1944

BY

ELLIS PEARSON, F.R.C.S., Medical Officer of Health

AND

JOHN ACKLAND, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

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Public Health Staff.

*Medical Officer of Health,
Medical Officer for Maternity and Child
Welfare Centre—*
ELLIS PEARSON, F.R.C.S.

*Sanitary Inspector,
Inspector of Meat and Foods—*
JOHN ACKLAND, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

To the Bideford Town Council

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1944.

I am pleased to state the district continues to hold its own as a Health Resort as will be seen from the General Statistics given in the several Tables.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
ELLIS PEARSON.

July, 1945

ANNUAL REPORT.

General Statistics.

Area (Statute Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,068
Population (1931) Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,744
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population, 1944	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,440
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,871
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£64,286
Sum represented by a penny Rate (approximate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£258

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	{ Legitimate—Males 80 Females 84 }	178
	{ Illegitimate—Males 8 Females 6 }	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		17.04
Still Births	{ Legitimate—Males 0 Females— 3 }	4
	{ Illegitimate—Males 1 Females 0 }	
Still Births, Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		21.97
Deaths—Males 73, Females 101.		174
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		16.66
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	{ Puerperal Sepsis 1 Other Puerperal Causes — }	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		5.49
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—		
All Infants per 1,000 live births (13 deaths)		73.03
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		73.03
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		34
,, ,, Measles (all ages)		—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)		—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria Immunisation was started in the Borough on January 13th, 1941, when some 2,498 resident and evacuee children were immunised, and was continued during 1942.

During the year 1943 Immunisation was carried out regularly, and the returns for that year, ending December 31st, 1943, show that 72% of children under 5 years of age and 90% of children between 5 and 15 years were immunised.

Throughout the year 1944 Immunisation was still continued and the percentage of children immunised remains practically the same as before.

CLEANSING CENTRE.

A Cleansing Centre for the treatment of Scabies was opened on January 26th, 1942, and a State Registered Nurse was engaged to attend and the following number of cases were treated :—

January 26th to December 31st, 1942	...	153
January 1st to December 31st, 1943	...	183
January 1st to December 31st, 1944	...	187

Legislation in Force.

ADOPTIVE PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	...	15th June, 1893
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	...

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 :—

Parts 2 (except Sec. 29), Parts 3, 4 and 6

Parts 7 (except Secs. 82, 84, 85 and 86).

Parts 8, 9 and Part 10 (except Sec. 94)

Parts 8, 9 and Part 10 (except Sec. 94) ...

April, 1909

Public Health Act, 1925, Part 5	26th January, 1926
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Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

applied to Sheep, Ewes, Wethers, Rams and

Lambs (as regards old area) ... 1st February, 1934

Ditto (as regards Borough as extended) ... 1st July, 1935

Byelaws.

With respect to markets	16th February, 1882
With respect to the Driving of Cattle ...	5th March, 1888
With respect to the Obstruction of Foot Passengers	8th August, 1892
For the Navigation of the River Torridge within the Harbour of Bideford	4th July, 1894
With respect to the Lighting of Vehicles ...	11th November, 1899
With respect to the disturbance of persons assembled in public buildings, shooting galleries, round-a-bouts, etc., street music and bad language	25th June, 1900
Prohibiting Spitting in Public Places ...	31st January, 1911
With respect to the Victoria Park Pleasure Ground	18th January, 1913
With respect to Hackney Carriages	4th August, 1932
With respect to New Streets & Buildings ...	10th July, 1928
With respect to the Management of the Public Cemetery	18th August, 1930
Regulating the use of Motor Boats within the Harbour	17th August, 1931
With respect to the Public Slaughterhouse ...	15th March, 1932
Relating to Violent Behaviour on Elementary School Premises	20th February, 1933
With respect to the Fouling of Footpaths by Dogs	17th August, 1935
For the Regulation of Advertisements ...	3rd December, 1936
With respect to the Decent Conduct of Persons using Public Sanitary Conveniences	1st April, 1937
With respect to :—	
(1) Nuisances contrary to Public Decency	
(2) Deposit of Litter to the Detriment of Public Amenities	
(3) Wireless, Loudspeakers, Gramophones, etc.	1st February, 1937

Regulations.

With respect to the supply of Water ...	1893
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TABLE I.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

[illegible]

TABLE II.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1944 AND PREVIOUS 5 YEARS

Years	Estimated population for Year	Births.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Nett		Number	Rate per 1000 population	Rate per 1000 population	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages	
		Number	Rate per 1000				Number	Rate per 1000 births	Number	Rate per 1000 population
1939	9384	108	11.5	158	16.83	16.83	6	55.4	158	16.83
1940	10490	128	12.24	184	17.54	17.54	4	31.25	184	17.54
1941	12580	131	10.41	178	14.14	14.14	7	48.96	178	14.14
1942	12580	153	12.95	142	11.28	11.28	6	39.21	142	11.28
1943	10300	153	14.85	140	13.59	13.59	7	45.75	140	13.59
1944	10440	178	17.04	174	16.66	16.66	13	73.03	174	16.66

CAUSES OF AND AGES

Nett deaths at t

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....
 Other forms of Tuberculosis
 Cancer
 Cancer of Stomach
 Cancer of Breast
 Cancer, all other sites
 Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions
 Heart Disease
 Other diseases of Circulatory System
 Bronchitis
 Pneumonia
 Ulcer of Stomach
 Diarrhoea under 2 years
 Other Digestive Diseases
 Nephritis
 Puerperal Sepsis
 Premature Birth
 Congenital Malformation
 Suicide
 Other Violent Causes
 All other causes

All Ages		Under 1 year		1 and under 2 years		2 and under 5 years		5 un 15
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.
1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
3	4	3	4	—	—	—	—	—
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
73	101	4	9	—	1	—	—	—

1 rs	15 and under 25 years		25 and under 35 years		35 and under 45 years		45 and under 55		55 and under 65 years		65 and under 75 years		75 and under 85 years		85 and under 95 years	
	M.	F. 2	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	—	2	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	4	3	—	1	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	6	3	4	4	—	1
1	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	2	6	4	7	6	7	16	—	9
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	2	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	1	—	1

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TABLE IV.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.				Vision not Impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated						
	At home	In hospital					
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

TABLE V.—TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male		Female	Male		Female	Male		Female	
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
15—20	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	7	7	7	1	3	3	1	3	—	1

TABLE VI.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Congenital Malformation	3	4	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Premature Birth	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	6	5	—	—	11	2	—	—	—	13

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my twentieth Annual Report, which deals with the work carried out during the year ended December 31st, 1944.

Sanitation.

The Tabulated Summary shows the work that has been carried out under the Public Health Acts, and the Housing Acts, 1925, 1930, 1935, and 1936.

Number of Houses Inspected	144
Number of Notices served under Public Health Acts	21
Number of Preliminary Notices under Housing Acts	16
Number of Notices served under Section 19 Housing Act, 1930, of time and place at which question of making a Demolition Order would be considered ...	Nil
Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 19 Housing Act, 1930	Nil
Number of Houses Demolished	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made of Part of a Building under Housing Act, 1930	Nil
Number of Notices served under Factory and Workshops Act	4

The chief defects that have been dealt with are :—

Roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	2
Eaves, gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...			2
Damp walls treated	...	...	...	1
Floors of living and sleeping rooms repaired	...	...		1
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	2
Kitchen stove repaired	...	...	...	2
New W.C. pans fitted	...	...	...	2
New soil pipe and vent shaft fixed	...	...	...	1
Flushing cisterns provided in W.C.s.	...	...	...	2
Defective paving in yards repaired	...	...	...	2
Drains cleared	...	...	...	31
Animals kept in such state as to be a nuisance	...	...		1
Accumulations of Manure removed	...	...	...	2

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Houses found to be infested :—

Council Houses, Nil. Other Houses, 7.

These were all minor infestations and were reported as soon as the tenants became aware of the presence of bugs. Spraying with insecticide was carried out, and if found necessary was repeated two or three times. Loose wall paper was stripped off, and all broken wood-work repaired, and cracks and holes in plastering of walls was made good. These methods have been effective.

Infectious Diseases and Infection.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified during the year :—

Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Typhoid	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Twelve patients were removed for treatment at the Bideford and District Joint Isolation Hospital and one patient was removed to the Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Exeter.

A “Manlove” Steam Disinfector is available at the Bideford and District Isolation Hospital.

Number of houses disinfected for :—

Notifiable Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	12
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4
Other Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	9
Verminous conditions	...	...	...	...	22

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**I. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.**

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	32	3	.....
Factories without mechanical power	11	.....	.....
Other Premises under the Act	4	1	.....
TOTAL	47	4	.....

2. Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (Section 1)	2	2	.....	Nil
Overcrowding (Section 2)	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (Section 3)	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (Section 4)	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6)	1	1	.....	Nil
Sanitary — Insufficient	1	1	.....	Nil
Conveniences — unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
Other Offences	Nil	Nil	.....	Nil
TOTAL	4	4	.....

RAINFALL.

The Borough Surveyor kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall as recorded at Gammaton and Jennetts for the year 1944 :—

				Gammaton.	Jennetts.
January	.....	.....	.....	2.27	2.61
February	.....	.....	.....	0.58	0.54
March	.....	.....	.....	0.20	0.19
April	.....	.....	.....	2.33	2.34
May	.....	.....	.....	0.77	1.12
June	.....	.....	.....	2.83	2.83
July	.....	.....	.....	2.47	2.18
August	.....	.....	.....	3.31	3.09
September	.....	.....	.....	3.61	3.64
October	.....	.....	.....	5.66	6.50
November	.....	.....	.....	6.88	7.57
December	.....	.....	.....	3.15	3.59
				<u>34.06</u>	<u>36.20</u>
				Inches	Inches

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the town is on the "Constant System" and is obtained from two sources, namely, Gammaton Reservoir and Jennetts Reservoir.

Samples of water are submitted to the Devon County Laboratory at Dixsfield, Exeter, for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Three samples were taken from the Gammaton Supply, and seven from the Jennetts Supply. All these samples proved satisfactory.

Three samples of well water were taken from supplies in the outlying districts. One was satisfactory, another doubtful and the third was unsatisfactory.

Action has been taken to improve the unsatisfactory supply.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The refuse of the town is collected by means of a mechanical freighter and a Bedford lorry.

Refuse collection was carried out on $4\frac{1}{2}$ days in the week, and Friday was devoted to the collection of salvage.

The refuse is tipped at a dump at Northam Ridge, and a man is daily employed on the dump to supervise tipping.

Flies.

The Refuse Dump at Northam Ridge was periodically treated with "Tip Dressing" during the summer to prevent the breeding of flies and other insects.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Action has been taken under the above Act for the destruction of Rats and Mice.

The Refuse Dump at Northam Ridge was periodically treated by prebaiting and then poisoned baits. There was a good "take" of these baits but it is impossible to ascertain how many rats were killed as there is so much cover for rats on the dump. "Cymag" gas was also used and the number of rats has been greatly reduced.

The manholes over the sewer at the junction of High Street and Grenville Street and also the Inspection Chamber over the electric Light Cables in the same area were lifted and prebaiting and then poison laid, this was effective in killing the rats, dead rats were found and subsequent baiting was not touched.

Nine dwelling houses which had small infestations were dealt with by baiting and trapping.

Five premises which had an invasion of mice were successfully dealt with by continual trapping.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Public Abattoir.

The Ministry of Food took over the use of the Council's Public Abattoir in January, 1940. The slaughtering of animals, the dressing of the carcasses, the inspection of the meat and the allocation to the various butchers in the area comprising Bideford Borough, Bideford Rural District, Northam Urban District, Great Torrington Borough, and Torrington Rural District is all done at this Central Depot.

During the year 18,662 animals were slaughtered at the Public Abattoir and the inspection of the carcasses entailed a considerable amount of time, especially the examination of carcasses which were brought to the slaughter-house for "Emergency Slaughter."

The following Table A. shows the number of animals killed and the percentage of carcasses affected with :—

- (1) All diseases except tuberculosis.
- (2) Tuberculosis only.

Table "B" gives the weight of meat condemned and the cause of condemnation.

Table "C" shows the amount of "Other Foodstuffs" condemned and reason for condemnation.

In compliance with Section I of the slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, all animals that are killed in the slaughterhouse are rendered insensible to pain by means of a mechanically operated instrument.

TABLE A.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

The following Table is as suggested by the Ministry of Health.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1494	798	2480	13673	217
Number inspected	1494	798	2480	13673	217
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases con- demned	9	12	13	134	21
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	380	567	18	901	20
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	26.03	72.55	1.25	7.56	18.89
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases con- demned	37	52	3	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	90	132	—	—	15
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.5	23.05	—	—	7.83

TABLE B.
SUMMARY OF FOOD COMDEMNATIONS WITH CAUSE OF CONDEMNATION AND WEIGHT

Foodstuffs Condemned.	Cause of Condemnation.	Carcases.	Pt. Carcases	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	Tuberculosis	89	222	22	5	1	0				
Beef Offal	Do.			2	12	1	18				
Beef	Other Causes	21		4	6	1	16				
Beef	Do.		55	1	12	2	7				
Beef Offal	Do.		892	4	1	3	22	34	18	2	7
Veal	Tuberculosis	3			2	1	23				
Veal	Other Causes	13			7	2	21				
Veal	Do.		4			1	3				
Veal Offal	Do.		14			3	8				
Pork	Tuberculosis	2			5	0	5				
Pork	Do.		15		2	1	5				
Pork	Other Causes	21		1	1	2	16				
Pork	Do.		3			3	3				
Pork Offal	Do.		17		1	0	25	1	10	3	26
Mutton	Dropsy	16			7	3	11				
Do.	Inflammation	66		1	17	1	17				
Do.	Do.		11		1	1	6				
Do.	Emaciation	24			8	0	18				
Do.	Pleurisy	11			5	1	25				
Do.	Do.		38		6	0	21				
Do.	Haemorrhage	10			6	1	4				
Do.	Do.		15		1	2	8				
Do.	Greenness	2			1	1	13				
Do.	Necrosis	2				3	1				
Do.	Septicaemia	1			2	2	12				
Do.	Toxaemia	1			2	2	6				
Do.	Abscess	1				3	26				
Do.	Do.		12			3	26				
Do.	Rheumatism		6				15				
Do.	Injuries		4				22				
Do.	Distoma Hepaticum										
Mutton Offal	Cysts and Congestion		815	1	19	1	24	5	19	1	3
								43	0	0	7

TABLE C.
OTHER FOODSTUFFS

Foodstuffs Condemned.	Cause of Condemnation.	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Meat, 109 tins	Tins blown or decomposition		2	0	18	8
Fish, 150 tins	Do.		1	0	10	2
Fruit, 12 tins	Do.			1	7	8
Vegetables, 204 tins	Do.		1	3	5	8
Milk, 924 tins	Tins blown or punctured		7	2	2	12
Soups, 30 tins	Do.			1	9	6
Jams, 68 tins	Do.			3	13	8
5 Boxes of Herrings	Decomposition		2	2	0	0
2 Jars of Pickles	Mouldy				2	0
1 Sack of Rice	Dampness, Weevils and Maggots		1	1	19	0
6 Packets of Shredded Wheat	Dampness and Mouldy				6	0
48 English Rabbits	Decomposition		1	0	0	8
*Pieces of Bacon	Decomposition			3	27	4
*11½ Hams	Do.		1	2	18	12
*1 Whole Cheese	Sour and decomposition			2	0	0
* These articles were re- turned to the Suppliers.						
170 Cases of Oranges	Frosted, Decomposition and Mouldy	1	2	1	0	12
456 Bottles (6 ozs. each) of Orange juice	Fermentation and discolouration					

Butchers' Shops.

The twelve butchers' shops in the town are kept in good condition and all comply with the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, in that they are provided with moveable glass fronts. The butchers' shops in the Butchers' Row are under a covered Market Place.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

The following Table sets out the number of dairymen who are producing Graded Milk under the above Order and are trading in the Borough

Local Authority	Grade of Milk		
	T.T.	Accredited	Pasteurised
Bideford Borough	3	4	1
Bideford Rural	2	3	.....
Barnstaple Rural	1	.....	.....

One licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" is still in force.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Thirty-one samples of milk were submitted to the Devon County Council Laboratory at Dixsfield, Exeter, for bacteriological examination. The milk is classified into three Grades :—(1) Tuberculin Tested. (2) Pasteurised, and (3) Ordinary.

The following tabulated summary shows the Grade of Milk and the results of the examination.

Local Authority Name of	Number of Samples	Tuberculin Tested.		Accredited.		Ordinary	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Bideford Borough	25	15	7	1	—	—	2
Bideford Rural	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Northam Urban	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barnstaple Rural	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Torrington Rural	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	31	15	7	1	—	—	8

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ACKLAND



